

Attorney Docket No.: 6260.200-US
USSN: 10/646,295
Filed: 08/22/03
Inventors: Hansen et al.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (New) An injection device from which doses can be apportioned from a medicament containing cartridge wherein the injection device comprises a cartridge holder (2); an axial element (17) provided at the first end of the cartridge holder (2); an inward protrusion (18) perpendicular to the axial element (17), the protrusion forming the closure of the cartridge holder and may be moved in a radial direction relative to the cartridge holder (2) and which is biased to be deflected outwardly; a ring (3) mounted on the device and being rotatable between a first position and a second position, the ring having pins (10) extending through slots (11) in the cartridge holder (2) and into tracks (16) in the tubular element (12) on which the axial elements (17) are arranged, the tracks (16) being helical so that the tubular element (12) is displaced in an axial direction when the ring (3) is rotated from the first position to the second position and whereby the axial element (17) when moved axially out of the cartridge holder (2) is deflected outwardly.

8. (New) An injection device comprising:

an axial element into which a cartridge of medication can be mounted, the axial element being radially expandable at least at one end;
a rotatable ring, the ring coupled to the axial element so that when the ring rotates the axial element moves axially; and
wherein when the axial element is moved in a distal direction at least a portion of the axial element expands radially to allow the cartridge to be placed into the injection device or removed therefrom.

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9. (New) The injection device of claim 8, wherein the axial element has an inward protrusion for arresting axial movement of the cartridge in a distal direction with respect to the axial element.
10. (New) The injection device of claim 9, wherein the device comprises a plurality of protrusions.
11. (New) The injection device of claim 8, wherein the coupling of the rotatable ring to the axial element comprises a helical groove and a pin riding in the helical groove.
12. (New) A method for loading a cartridge into an injection device, the method comprising:
rotating a first element, the rotation of the first element causing a cartridge retaining member to move axially in a distal direction and to expand radially;
loading a cartridge into the distal end of an injection device;
rotating the first element in an opposite direction, the rotation causing the cartridge retaining member to retract into the device, the retraction causing the element to radially contract around a portion of the cartridge.
13. (New) An injection device comprising:
a proximal end and a distal end;
a cartridge holder;
an axial element that is axially displaceable within the cartridge holder;
wherein the axial element comprises:
 - i. A radially displaceable element located at one end of the axial element;
 - ii. The radially displaceable element being moveable radially outward when the axial element is displaced distally so as to allow a cartridge to be removed from the cartridge holder and is radially displaceable inwardly

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when the axially element is moved proximally so that the element acts as a support that keeps the cartridge from moving distally within the injection device;

a ring that rotates between at least two position, wherein when the ring is rotated to the first position, the axial element is moved in a proximal direction and wherein when the ring is rotated to the second position the axial element is moved distally, thereby allowing the radially displaceable element to move radially outward so as to facilitate removal or insertion of a cartridge into the device.